

**BUREAU OF OCEAN ENERGY MANAGEMENT**  
**CONTINGENCY PLAN FACT SHEET**  
**SEPTEMBER 27, 2013**

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) manages the environmentally and economically responsible development of offshore energy and mineral resources on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf. The Bureau's functions include offshore leasing, resource and economic evaluation, review and administration of oil and gas exploration and development plans, renewable energy development, National Environmental Policy Act analysis, and environmental studies. Underlying all of the Bureau's management and regulatory activities is a commitment to rigorous environmental reviews and study, and science-based decision-making.

**Services and programs that will remain operational:**

- Support for Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Permitting Operations – BOEM will ensure the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has required support needed from the Bureau to continue all permitting related activities.
- Emergency Response – BOEM will ensure the protection of life and property and respond to incidents, document conditions and secure the site.

**Activities and programs that will cease:**

- Renewable energy activities (including management of environmental assessments and lease programs) will cease. Renewable energy and alternate use projects include wind, wave energy, and ocean current projects, as well as projects that make alternative use of existing oil and natural gas platforms in Federal waters.
- Work on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents (environmental impact statements, environmental assessments) will cease. These documents support Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) lease sales, plan reviews, geological and geophysical permitting and other Bureau functions, and decisions on these activities cannot be made without completed NEPA analysis.
- New environmental studies cannot be initiated. The information generated by these important studies is critical in order to comply with NEPA and other environmental statutes.
- Conventional energy leasing, plan reviews, economic analysis, resource evaluation, and the Five Year OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program will cease. The Five Year Program includes 15 potential lease sales in six planning areas in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. The affected activities include the ongoing review of high bids from Western Gulf of Mexico Lease Sale 233 (held in August 2013), which will delay both the issuance of leases and the associated payments to the Department of Treasury that occur upon execution of the lease.